

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Appropriations and Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2008
Court Room 312

Call to order at 1:37 p.m.

Roll Call: Councilor Shirley Oldman, Councilor Alice Yellowbank, Treasurer Gerald V. Chingwa.

Staff Attendance: Chief Financial Officer Valerie Tweedie (CFO), Legislative Office Manager Michele LaCount

Guests: Councilor Melvin L. Kiogima, Councilor Dexter McNamara, Tribal Citizen Dean W. Samuels, Legislative Leader Beatrice A. Law

Motion made by Councilor Oldman and supported by Councilor Yellowbank to approve the agenda for February 6, 2008 as presented.

Vote: 3 yes, 0, no, 0 abstained, 0 absent

Motion Carried.

Motion made by Councilor Yellowbank and supported by Councilor Oldman to approve the Minutes of January 9, 2008 as corrected.

Vote: 3 yes, 0, no, 0 abstained, 0 absent

Motion Carried.

Review of the FY 2009 Budgets.

Discussion regarding new employment positions requests: (2) Natural Resources, (1) Enrollment, and (1) Accounting.

Discussion regarding possible reduction in staff: (2) Health-Community Outreach, (1) Substance Abuse if no grant funds available to restore positions.

The CFO indicated all department budgets were cut where detail was not displayed for justification. The departments were notified of the cuts and offered the opportunity to meet with the Tribal Administrator, Tribal Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Financial Officer regarding such.

CFO indicated there were not many programs that under spent drastically in FY 2007.

Discussion regarding Housing Department contractors and housing fund deposits.

The CFO indicated the Direct Employment Assistance fund was removed from the FY 2009 Budget proposal.

Cultural Preservation Video appropriations and carry over funds were discussed.

Regulatory expenses were discussed regarding excessive spending for travel as well as staff wage levels.

2:30 p.m. Public Comment opened: Michele LaCount spoke regarding rumors and staff communication in general. Dean W. Samuels asked about the total budget expenses.

2:40 p.m. Public Comment closed.

The CFO will forward questions regarding the Regulatory Department budget for a possible reduction to the Tribal Chairman.

Discussion regarding budget cuts where position eliminations may influence bond requirement.

The CFO indicated the Executive. The CFO also indicated the Executive Budget was only \$437.00 in surplus prior to the Prosecutor, Judicial Branch and Legislative Branch budget additional funding requests.

Councilor Oldman indicated there is now \$235,000.00 that needs to be cut back in order to balance the FY 2009 budget.

The Committee cut the Legislative Budget by removing all increases and eliminating the (2) proposed new positions.

The Legislative Leader position was discussed as a possibility of increasing the position to full time with benefits.

Councilor Oldman recommends the Committee needs to look at cutting or reducing political contributions, small grants, sponsorships and donations as long as it does not impact the Tribal Citizens.

4:00 p.m. Councilor Yellowbank left the meeting.

Additional cuts to the Department of Commerce, Judicial, and Prosecutor were discussed.

The CFO will review the Election Board expenditures and other budgetary needs.

Discussion regarding Indigent fund established in the Constitution.

Foster Care payments and set aside fund to allow for Social Security and foster care payments were discussed.

The Appellate Court budget was reviewed and travel allowance was cut from proposed budget.

The CFO will review the FY 2007 Appellate budget to see if the Tribal Court was absorbing the bulk of their budget in FY 2007.

The next meeting for the Appropriations and Finance Committee will be on February 6, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.

Motion made by Councilor Oldman and supported by Treasurer Chingwa to adjourn.
2-yes, 0-no, 0-abstained, 1-absent (Councilor Yellowbank)

These Minutes have been read and approved as written:
Approved:

Gerald V. Chingwa, Tribal Council Treasurer Date: